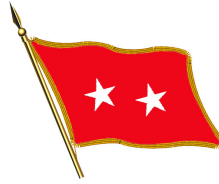


# YEAR IN REVIEW

The Idaho Military Division  
2021



**THE ADJUTANT GENERAL, IDAHO  
COMMANDER, IDAHO NATIONAL GUARD  
GOWEN FIELD - BOISE, IDAHO**

Governor Little,

The Idaho Military Division remains committed to supporting your priorities of providing education and training opportunities for our citizens while working, raising families and remaining here in Idaho.

Our Soldiers, Airmen and civilian employees live and train in Idaho, while standing ready to respond to emergencies at home or in defense of our national interests throughout the world, and no year better exemplifies this than 2021.

Whether it was rapidly responding to aid civil law enforcement at our nation's capital, supporting wildland firefighting efforts here in Idaho or assisting our heroic health care workers throughout the state, the Idaho National Guard certainly lived up to its motto of "Always Ready, Always There."

Just as our Soldiers and Airmen met and overcame challenges throughout 2021, so did our Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy cadets. This year, more than 200 students graduated from the program. Since 2014, the academy has provided second chances to 1,582 Idaho students at risk of not completing high school. Our STARBASE program provided "hands-on, minds-on" STEM training to another 1,450 Title I fifth graders this year, bringing the total number of graduates to more than 3,400. Together, these programs help ensure Idaho's most precious resource—our children—receive the education and training they will need to work and raise their families here in Idaho.

As with every year, our relationships with Idaho's tribes continue to strengthen. Tribal partners, Soldiers and Airmen collaborated to conduct diabetes screenings, nutrition counseling, behavioral health support, pre-K health exams, sports physicals and dental assistance, in addition to partnering in the fight against COVID-19.

The Idaho Office of Emergency Management has continued to effectively address all requests received since the Emergency Operations Center activated in February 2020. The IMD's civilian employees remain as committed as our uniformed members to serving the state and its communities.

As our Governor and Commander in Chief, you can rest assure that the citizen-Soldiers, Airmen and civilian employees of the Idaho Military Division stand ready as your premier public service organization, attracting our leading citizens while promoting a safe and secure environment for our state and nation.

**Michael J. Garshak  
Major General**

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## 4-5 116TH CBCT DEPLOYS TO SOUTHWEST ASIA

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**Editor's Note:** The Year in Review is an Idaho Military Division publication composed of stories published throughout 2021. Some positions and ranks may have changed during the year. Views expressed may not be those of the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Department of Defense or the U.S. Government.

On the cover: Idaho National Guard's largest unit, the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team, departed in November for a 12-month deployment to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Spartan Shield, page 4.

Follow us at:



# Idaho Army National Guard deploys to Southwest Asia, Operation Spartan Shield

On Nov. 5, more than 250 Soldiers from the Idaho National Guard's largest unit, the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team, left for a 12-month deployment to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Spartan Shield. The brigade had planned for nearly two years in anticipation of the mobilization.



and supported primarily by Army National Guard units from across the country.

"The Soldiers of the 116th are trained and ready to go," said Lt. Col. Eric Orcutt, 116th CBCT commander. "I could not be more proud of these men and women and the efforts they've put forth in training and preparing for this mission. They are eager and they are focused and as always, they will achieve the highest level of success."

OSS is a joint mission under the U.S. Central Command and is part of Operation Enduring Freedom. It is an ongoing operation

Idaho Soldiers comprise nearly 20 percent of the 116th CBCT task force, which also includes Soldiers from the brigade's units in



### Soldiers transport vehicles by railhead

116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team Soldiers loaded more than 400 vehicles, as well as other equipment, from the Idaho Army National Guard's Orchard Combat Training Center in October and November for rail transport to embarkation and premobilization training sites. The railhead operations were in support of the brigade's departure for Operation Spartan Shield.



Montana, Nevada and Oregon, as well as augmentees from the Florida Army National Guard.

Soldiers received 45 days of additional training stateside before deploying overseas for approximately a year. The deployment is the first of two rotations the brigade is scheduled to support, with the second rotation occurring in the summer of 2022.

The 116th CBCT previously deployed in support of the Global War on Terror in 2004 and 2010 to Iraq. Additionally, more than 400 Idaho Air National Guardsmen deployed to Southwest Asia in the summer of 2020.



# 211 cadets earn second chance from Youth ChalleNGe Academy this year

More than 200 cadets graduated from the Idaho Military Division's Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy in 2021 as the residential high school overcame challenges COVID-19 posed since 2020.



Photo courtesy IDYCA

Last year, due to COVID-19, only 131 students graduated from the program, which gives second chances to Idaho's high school students who already have or are at risk of dropping out of high school.

This year, 211 students graduated from the program, resulting in over 2,900 high school credits recovered, in addition to nine high school diplomas and 13 GEDs earned.

The pandemic also caused a delay in the construction of student barracks last year; however, plans are back on track to begin construction in 2022. Students reside at the academy located in Pierce for 22 weeks, where they earn education credits, perform physical fitness,



Photo courtesy IDYCA

learn healthy lifestyle habits and contribute to the local community through service projects.

Since its first class in 2014, 1,582 students have graduated from the program. In total, cadets have earned 192 high school diplomas, 144 GEDs and nearly 22,000 high school credits. Students have also performed more than 75,000 hours of service, at a value of over \$543,000 to the community in northern Idaho.

The academy's inaugural principal, Bicker Therien, retired in the summer of 2021. He was instrumental in ensuring the program's accreditation, which allows the academy to offer cadets high school credits and diplomas. For his efforts and contributions, Maj. Gen. Michael Garshak, adjutant general of Idaho, presented him



with the Idaho Meritorious Service Medal in June. He was succeeded by Rebecca Kosinski.

Idaho's Youth ChalleNGe Academy is one of 40 National Guard youth challenge programs around the country. Students from 43 of Idaho's 44 counties have graduated from the program.



# STARBASE Idaho brings STEM to youth

Idaho students returned to Gowen Field to participate in STARBASE Idaho in August, more than 16 months after transitioning to a virtual environment due to COVID-19 restrictions. The educational program provides

Treasure Valley fifth-grade students with 25 hours of “hands-on, minds-on” immersive STEM experiences.



Field. Supplementing its in-class instruction with interactive platforms and video conferencing, STARBASE Idaho provided more than 9,000 contact hours to nearly 1,450 students from seven school districts during 2021.



During the pandemic, instructors provided an interactive virtual curriculum, in addition to traveling to classrooms to provide students with the “STARBASE experience,” allowing the program to temporarily expand its reach beyond Gowen

Field. Now in its fourth year, STARBASE Idaho, a Department of Defense sponsored program, has expanded into three classrooms with after-school programs for sixth grade students from Boise and Middleton school districts.

## Events key to building community relations

Each year, the Idaho National Guard conducts more than 300 community relations events, both on Gowen Field and throughout the state.

These events inform the public about the organization’s dual state and federal missions, helping it maintain viable relationships with community members and leaders.

Community relations activities include tours of Gowen Field and local armories; vehicle and aircraft static displays; the use of the color guard and the 25th Army Band at public events; and more.



As part of its community outreach program, the Idaho Army National Guard’s 25th Army Band played approximately 10 performances in 2021. Over the summer, the band toured across the state as part of its



annual training with stops in Athol, Cascade, Coeur d’Alene, Kellogg, Kuna, Meridian, Pierce and Post Falls to play concerts in celebration of various events including the Fourth of July and Meridian Dairy Days.

During their tour, members played for more than 90,000 Idahoans, through both live and broadcast performances.



After returning from tour, the band played at Kuna Days in August for the event’s theme “America the Beautiful,” honoring all veterans, current military service members and emergency personnel.



# Taking care of military members, families

The Service Member & Family Support office encompasses more than a dozen different programs to help military members and their families maintain a balanced life while remaining mission-ready. Services include personal finance counseling; child and youth programs; and the Resilience, Risk Reduction and Suicide Prevention (R3SP) program among many others.



Prior to the deployment of more than 250 Idaho Army National Guard Soldiers in November, the Yellow Ribbon program hosted an event that brought together the various services available to Guard members and their families through all phases of deployment.

The R3SP program launched a series of educational videos and publications about available resources, which emphasize building resilience early on to prevent crises. The program distributed 1,500 gun locks and conducted lethal means training to prevent misuse of prescription drugs and firearms.



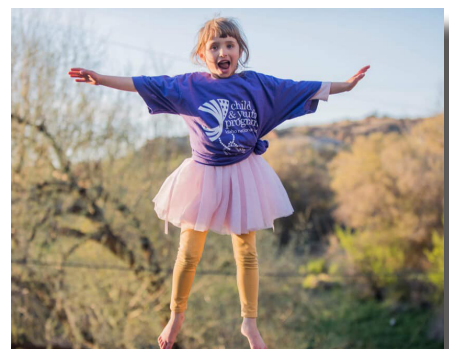
September kicked off Suicide Prevention and Recovery month with a proclamation signed by Gov. Brad Little. The month focused on building resiliency while normalizing the conversation about mental health. The Beyond the Yellow Ribbon counseling program supported current members, veterans, retirees and dependents by providing \$231,000 worth of counseling services throughout 2021 at no cost to recipients.

This year, personal finance coun-

selors provided over 750 sessions of in-person and virtual counseling reaching nearly 700 members. The Idaho Guard and Reserve Family Support Fund provided over \$86,000 in grants and zero-interest loans to military families with emergency needs in 2021.



To promote a sense of community and appreciation while raising awareness of available resources, the Service Member & Family Support staff hosted Easter egg hunts, military family appreciation nights, trunk or treats and other events. Military youth participated in multi-day winter and summer camps that taught valuable resiliency skills while helping children connect with other military youth around the state. Additionally, the Child and Youth Program hosted more than 150 children through virtual and in-person camps in 2021.



## Building spiritual fitness

The Idaho National Guard chaplain's office hosted several resiliency hikes throughout four Idaho mountain ranges this summer for its Spiritual Fitness Challenge 2021 to build physical and spiritual fitness. The Chaplain Corps' goal throughout the year was to strengthen relationships and trust among peers and build spiritual fitness, improving overall resiliency.



# Honoring veterans throughout Idaho



Idaho Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Michael Garshak had the pleasure of being the guest speaker at the Warhawk Air Museum's Veterans Day celebration in Nampa on Nov. 2. He was joined by current and past service members from multiple military branches representing service from World War II through every conflict since.



In May, members of the 124th Security Forces Squadron went above and beyond to assist 96-year-old World War II veteran, retired Capt. William Brand, after receiving an emergency call from Gowen Field Lodging. As Brand was checking into lodging for a routine stay at Gowen Field on May 6, he experienced a medical emergency, leaving him with limited ability to properly care for himself. As a result, the defenders took it upon themselves to conduct hourly welfare checks on Brand, while providing assistance with his daily healthcare and essential needs, including helping him coordinate medical appointments.



Idaho National Guard leaders joined Gov. Brad Little, representatives from the Idaho Division of Veterans Services, members of Veterans of Eastern Idaho and other state and government officials in Blackfoot on Oct. 29 to dedicate Idaho's newest state veterans cemetery. The cemetery is now one of two state veterans cemeteries and the only one in eastern Idaho. It opened in December 2020, just six years after the Boise Veterans Cemetery opened. Its 40 acres will serve more than 20,000 eastern Idaho veterans and their families with plots for in-ground casket burials and three options for cremation.



# Wing celebrates 75 years of heritage



The 124th Fighter Wing unveiled a specially-painted heritage A-10 Thunderbolt II in May to commemorate the 190th Fighter Squadron's 75th Anniversary.



"This newly painted aircraft is not only a vivid reminder of our earliest beginnings, but a symbol of so many Idaho citizen-Airmen who have humbly and courageously served our nation and state for so many years," said Col. Shannon Smith, 124th Fighter Wing commander. "With fewer and fewer Americans serving in our armed services, it is more important than ever that we remember the sacrifices of those who have gone before and those serving today. 2020 and 2021 have been stark reminders of how valuable the National Guard continues to be, to both our federal

warfighting mission and our guardian mission here in the homeland."

The specific paint scheme was designed to mimic the 1944 version of the P-47 Thunderbolt flown in World War II by the 405th Fighter Squadron, which was later redesignated the 190th Fighter Squadron on May 24, 1946.

"Painting this hog in the markings of our World War II P-47s is a statement: we value our heritage, and honoring the achievements and sacrifices made by the men of the 405th Fighter Squadron



is not only important, it's our duty," said Maj. Tom Silkowski, a 190th Fighter Squadron pilot.

The 405th Fighter Squadron was activated July 15, 1943, and armed with the Republic P-47 Thunderbolt. During the war, the unit provided aerial support, including on D-Day at Omaha and Utah beaches.



"Every aspect of that paint job, down to the smallest detail, is deliberate and faithful to how our P-47s looked in the summer of 1944," said Silkowski. "We weren't going for glitz and a superficial 'wow factor.' This isn't a toy airplane. It's one of our beautiful A-10 Thunderbolt II's dressed in the same scheme worn by our P-47 Thunderbolts in World War II. I think that's what makes it so special."

# 124th Fighter Wing changes leaders

The Idaho National Guard's 124th Fighter Wing held a change of command ceremony on Nov. 7 at Gowen Field, signifying the transfer of authority and command between the outgoing commander, Col. Shannon Smith, and the incoming commander, Col. Chad Kornberg.

"It has truly been an honor to serve the men and women of this fighter wing," said Smith. "It is their strength, courage, and devotion to duty that has allowed us to deploy overseas in support of our federal mission, and without fail to answer the multiple calls from our state

and nation in support of the homeland. We have persevered through unprecedented times."

"It has truly been an honor to serve the men and women of this fighter wing." - Col. Smith

Kornberg has served in the Idaho Air National Guard since 1996 and earned his commission in 1997. Shortly after commissioning, he completed pilot training at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas. He has flown the A-10 Warthog and held command positions in various squadrons, including most recently the 124th Maintenance Group. He has deployed in support of Operations Southern Watch, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.



Smith served as the wing's commander since May 2019. Under his command, Airmen from the wing completed the second largest deployment in the unit's history and two cyber squadron deployments; participated in a major warfighter exercise with the Idaho Army National Guard; and supported civil authorities throughout multiple state missions, to include support of Idaho's battle against the COVID-19 pandemic. Smith accepted a new position as director of operations for Idaho's Joint Force Headquarters.



## Singaporeans train at OCTC for 10th year

The Republic of Singapore Air Force's Peace Vanguard detachment completed AH-64 Apache aerial gunnery throughout July at the Orchard Combat Training Center—marking its 10th year utilizing the Idaho National Guard's premier training facility.

Since 2001, the detachment has been based in Marana, Arizona, and supported by the Arizona National Guard's U.S. Army Flight Training Detachment. RSAF pilots operate AH-64 Apache Longbow Attack helicopters and complete the same gunnery requirements and standards as U.S. pilots.

During the exercise, crews trained on the National Guard's only Digital Air Ground Integrated Range—one of two in the U.S. Army and located within Idaho's OCTC. The

DAGIR allows air and ground units to train together while receiving accurate and real-time feedback on their performance.

Lt. Col. Jack Denton, commander of the U.S. Army Flight Training Detachment, said the range's pop-up and moving targets provided pilots with more realistic training than typical ranges. Additionally, Denton said his master gunner was able to communicate with OCTC staff months in advance to build and develop a qualification program that ensured each pilot received the same level of training.

While at the OCTC, RSAF pilots conducted individual and crew-level qualifications and worked with Marine joint terminal attack controllers to simulate close



air support. They also slept and refueled their aircraft from within the OCTC.

Idaho's DAGIR range, coupled with the climatic conditions of the OCTC, make the training site a highly sought-after destination for multiple branches of the U.S. military as well as our international allies and partners.

## Airmen support Operation Allies Welcome



Approximately a dozen Idaho Air National Guard Airmen volunteered to support Operation Allies Welcome, Aug. 27-Sept. 30, at Joint

Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey.

Airmen conducted medical, logistical and security operations throughout their rotation. The mission is the coordinated effort across the federal government to support and resettle vulnerable Afghans, including those who worked on behalf of the United States.



Photo courtesy Master Sgt. Matt Hecht

Photos courtesy 124th Fighter Wing

# Polish soldiers observe Idaho armor training

Members of the Polish Land Forces traveled to Boise in October to share ideas, capabilities and experiences with Idaho Army National Guard armor experts on the M1A2 Abrams tank.

The Polish military—a U.S. ally, NATO member and official state partner of the Illinois National Guard—recently requested to purchase a fleet of M1A2 SEPv3 tanks and is working through the State Department and the Department of Defense to identify opportu-



nities to partner in armor crew member training.

The Idaho Army National Guard's 204th Regional Training Institute at Gowen Field trains U.S. military

members in armor operations and maintenance.

"The 1st of the 204th Armor Training Battalion is the only National Guard battalion that teaches a full catalog of armored training courses," said Maj. Noah Siple, commander. "We are credentialed to be the premier armored training battalion of the National Guard. With our Orchard Combat Training Center and our ranges for armor-specific training, there is really no better place to go to."

## Units across nation, DoD train in Idaho

Each year, military units from across the nation visit Idaho to take advantage of our unique training opportunities.



Photo courtesy Fort Stewart

In March, U.S. Marines assigned to the 1st Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, I Marine Expeditionary Force Information Group, and Airmen assigned to the 15th Air Support Operations Squadron from Fort Stewart, Georgia, conducted a joint force cold weather training exercise with Idaho's 124th Fighter Wing in the Boise National Forest.



In April, the 124th Fighter Wing hosted day and night flying operations with AV-8B Harrier jets from the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina. The training was valuable to both the U.S. Marine Corps and the 124th Fighter Wing.

In June, the U.S. Army Reserve's Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 814th Transportation Battalion conducted its annual training at the Idaho Army National Guard's Orchard Combat Training Center with assistance from the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team. During the training, Idaho National Guard combat engineers demonstrated route clearance techniques using Buffalo Mine Protected Route Clearance Vehicles and Husky Vehicle Mounted Mine Systems during Counter-Improvised Explosive Device lane training.

In July, engineers of the 116th Cav-

alry Brigade Combat Team completed Armored Vehicle-Launched Bridge training with active duty and U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers. The training took place at the Orchard Combat Training Center and was led by the 321st Engineer Battalion, a Reserve unit located on Gowen Field.



In October, U.S. Army Rangers from the 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment from Fort Lewis, Washington, performed their recertification training at Idaho's Saylor Creek Range, working with Idaho Army National Guard aviation units, the 124th Fighter Wing and Mountain Home Air Force Base's 366th Fighter Wing. Training tasks included mission planning, helicopter infiltration and exfiltration, medevac operations and close air support.

# 101st CST participates in multi-agency exercises

The Idaho National Guard's 101st Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team participated in several large-scale exercises in 2021.

"It is vital to continue training for emergencies even as the global



COVID-19 pandemic continues," said Lt. Col. Christina Taylor, commander of the 101st CST. "It's imperative that the CST remains trained and ready to respond at all times to our local community, as well as neighboring states, in the event of a large-scale, real-world HAZMAT emergency."

In February, BAYEX 2021 tested Idaho, Nevada and Oregon CSTs' capabilities to interoperate with the California National Guard's 95th CST in response to a scenario in the San Francisco Bay Area involving a weapons of mass destruction event.

The exercise scenario involved suspected biological agents that were detected inside an abandoned military facility and in a boat transport-



ing passengers around the bay. The potentially hazardous material triggered federal agencies to request National Guard CST support.



In May, Exercise ORCA 2021 took place in Alaska cities Anchorage, Matanuska-Susitna Valley and Seward, involving CSTs from 12 states, along with nearly a dozen different local and federal agencies and organizations.

As part of the exercise, the 101st CST responded to a terrorist threat occurring in a simulated residential apartment building where weapons of mass destruction were suspected. Once on scene, the team worked through the night performing site



characterization and field analysis of the building, locating five lab set-ups including a drug lab, a home-made explosives lab and a potential nerve agent lab.

As one of 57 teams located in every U.S. state and territory, Idaho's

101st CST is composed of 22 highly skilled full-time Army and Air National Guardsmen trained to provide incident and disaster management in support of civil authorities throughout Idaho and the nation.

Unlike other Idaho National Guard units, the 101st CST works almost entirely alongside civilian agencies, including regional hazardous response teams, police, firefighters and other state or federal responders that function under an incident command system during emergency situations.



As part of Idaho's emergency response structure, the unit is prepared to respond 24/7 to hazardous incidents that threaten the community, state and nation. Personnel are often called upon to assist in ensuring public safety during sporting events, concerts and other large-scale activities where the public gathers.

Throughout the year, the 101st CST supported six Boise State University football games and augmented several other CSTs at major national events including the 59th Presidential Inauguration in January; the Boston Marathon in April; and the U.S. Olympic Team Trials in June.

# Guardsmen fight fires on ground, in air

Idaho National Guard Soldiers and Airmen made history in August by deploying as Type 2 Red Card certified firefighters and hand crews to fire lines in Idaho.



“This year marked yet another milestone in the proud history of the Idaho National Guard after wildland firefighter ground crews mobilized and deployed to combat the growing wildland fire threats across our state,” said Brig. Gen. Russ Johnson, director of the joint staff. “Our National Guard service members yet again answered the call to support the citizens of Idaho during this volatile fire season.”



Certifying red card holders and mobilizing Task Force Timber Shield came as a response to Gov. Brad Little’s emergency declaration, signed July 9, to mobilize Idaho Na-



tional Guard personnel in support of the Idaho Department of Land’s fire protection efforts in the northern part of the state.

It was the first time the IDL requested Gov. Little to issue an emergency declaration authorizing Idaho National Guard ground resources to assist in firefighting on the ground.



The crew consisted of 16 fully trained Idaho Guardsmen operating under the command and control of one crew boss and two squad bosses from the IDL, rounding out a full 19-person crew.

Before the Guardsmen departed for northern Idaho on Aug. 4, they were issued firefighting personal protective equipment, fire-resistant clothing, hand tools and sleeping gear from the National Interagency Fire Center.



Gov. Little’s emergency declaration also authorized the use of Idaho National Guard aircraft and Idaho Guardsmen to support logistical activities.

The Idaho National Guard deployed several UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters, pilots, crew chiefs, refueling crews and essential maintenance personnel to assist with aerial firefighting. Using large capacity “Bambi Buckets” suspended from helicopter cables, crews dropped more than 200,000 gallons of water on area fires in northern Idaho.



Additionally, a request to assist the Idaho Fire Cache warehouse in Coeur d’Alene sent eight Guardsmen on July 21 to provide logistical and operational support of daily refurbishment operations to include palletizing orders, building kits, cleaning, repackaging firefighting hoses and pulling stock of supplies and equipment for state and federal wildland firefighters.



The IDL, the Idaho Office of Emergency Management and the Idaho National Guard maintain a partnership through a Joint Powers Agreement, defining the process involved in interagency coordination, support, training and planning during times of emergency involving mutual aid of wildland fire relief within Idaho.





# Soldiers, Airmen respond again: COVID-19

In September of 2021, after a new wave of COVID-19 cases spread across Idaho, Gov. Brad Little authorized the mobilization of up to 150 Idaho National Guard Soldiers and Airmen. He also requested additional federal support as an



effort to avoid activating a statewide Crisis Standards of Care—a first in Idaho’s history.

The mobilization marked the second time since the beginning of the pandemic that Idaho National Guardsmen deployed in response to COVID-19. In March 2020, the Idaho National Guard began mobilizing more than 400 citizen-Soldiers and Airmen as part of the organization’s first COVID-19 relief effort, named Task Force Agile Response, which deactivated in July of 2021.

On Sept. 7, at the recommendation of Gov. Little and the Adjutant General of Idaho Maj. Gen. Michael Garshak, U.S. Northern Command appointed Brig. Gen. Russ Johnson, Idaho National Guard director of the joint staff, as the state’s first-ever

dual-status commander. That same day, Idaho Guardsmen and federal active duty military personnel began reporting to hospitals, clinics and other medical facilities across the state as part of Joint Task Force –Idaho, in support of overwhelmed medical staff.

“JTF–Idaho is helping free up civilian medical staff allowing them to focus on providing medical care during the ongoing surge in COVID-19 cases,” said Johnson. “Collectively, our Title 32 Idaho National Guardsmen and Title 10 active duty personnel are employed in direct support of our healthcare sector, making a difference in the lives of Idaho citizens.”



It was the first time in Idaho history that Title 32 and Title 10 personnel have mobilized under one joint task force, creating the demand for a dual-status commander to effectively coordinate response efforts between both forces.

“Dual-status command effectively streamlines National Guard and

active component efforts under a single commander in support of state and federal civil authorities,” said Johnson. “It ensures we all pull in the same direction to meet the



needs—current and emerging—of the governor and his emergency management leadership.”

While Idaho Guardsmen helped to serve in nearly two dozen health-care facilities across the state performing non-clinical duties, Title 10 forces including physicians, nurses and respiratory therapists at Kootenai Health provided medical services. Members of both forces collectively worked thousands of hours, providing care to COVID-19 patients and much-needed relief to overworked healthcare facility staffs until the mission ended in December.



# Idaho assists 59th Presidential Inauguration

In January, the Idaho National Guard deployed more than 275 Soldiers and Airmen to Washington, D.C. to assist district and federal agencies with the 59th Presidential Inauguration.



The Guardsmen augmented the Washington, D.C. National Guard and served in support of the U.S. Secret Service, the lead federal agency responsible for coordinat-

ing the event. They also served alongside members of the U.S. Capitol Police and Washington, D.C.'s Metropolitan Police Department.

Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen left Boise on military aircraft less than 72 hours after Gov. Brad Little approved the mission. They performed a number of tasks including security, communications, medical, logistics and safety support before returning home 10 days later.

Idaho also deployed two unit ministry teams and its 101st Civil Support Team. The team served as liaison officers for the District



Photo courtesy Vermont National Guard

of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Systems area command and the joint task force operations center. Members of the 101st CST also served alongside members from the Department of Energy, the U.S. Secret Service, the FBI and local first responders.

## IOEM manages COVID-19, firefighting efforts

The Idaho Office of Emergency Management continued to actively manage the state's COVID-19 pandemic response through 2021. The team successfully delivered more than three million items of personal protective equipment, assisted in establishing testing facilities across the state and worked to educate hundreds of thousands of Idaho citizens about the virus.

As the COVID-19 vaccines rolled out in the fall of 2020 and early 2021, the spread of the virus appeared to slow. By September, as COVID-19 cases began to rise again and hospitals became overwhelmed, Gov. Brad Little activated a statewide Crisis Standards of Care. As a result, IOEM changed its focus, concentrating on direct support to healthcare facilities.

IOEM staff worked quickly to establish a contract with ACI Federal through the General Services Administration to deploy 600 medical professionals to various healthcare locations throughout Idaho.

Additionally, IOEM facilitated the activation of roughly 150 Idaho Guardsmen to provide non-clinical support to Idaho's healthcare industry.

An extremely dry spring, coupled with certain areas of Idaho setting record-high temperatures, created a significant 2021 wildfire season, particularly in northern Idaho where lightning strikes started multiple wildfires. COVID-19 complicated the fire season by creating supply chain shortages, resulting from a lack of drivers, trucks and

materials. The shortage of aviation fuel threatened to ground firefighting aircraft. Fire managers in Idaho faced continuous logistical challenges as other western states competed for resources as they battled fires in their region. Gov. Little signed an emergency declaration in July to allow IOEM to provide support from all available sources, including the Idaho National Guard.

Based on a request for assistance from the Idaho Department of Lands, IOEM assigned the Idaho National Guard to provide UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters for aerial suppression and logistics staff to work in the fire cache. In addition, IOEM tasked the Idaho National Guard to provide personnel as Type 2 Red Card certified hand crews—a first in Idaho history.

# Unique integrated range opens at the OCTC

The Idaho Army National Guard opened its Digital Air Ground Integrated Range at the Orchard Combat Training Center in March.

The DAGIR is a first-of-its-kind on any National Guard training site and only the second one within the U.S. Army. The range allows air and ground units to train together while receiving accurate and real-time feedback on their performance.



“This fully instrumented range will make it possible for military personnel within Idaho and the United States to coordinate and practice accomplishing missions from the ground and air simultaneously,” said Col. Matthew Godfrey, commander of the Idaho Army National Guard Training Center.

Manned and unmanned aviation crews; armor, Stryker and infantry crews; and other sections and platoons can conduct combined arms live-fire exercises together on the range using 200 different targets that provide more than 400 possible training scenarios.

“The efficiencies that will be gained from a truly world-class targeting range will improve the combat

capabilities of all units that train here,” Godfrey said.

Prior to conducting training on the range, equipment is attached to vehicles and aircraft that records and feeds audio and video footage into the range’s tower in real time. Range operators have the ability to observe the crew, what the crew sees, the target itself, and the location of any rounds fired on the range.

“This gives the tower the ability to help coach the crew and correct any issues the crew may be having,” said Maj. Joe Doyle, OCTC range officer.

In addition, crews and leaders can review recordings in the After Actions Review building following a training run and even take the recording back to their unit for further evaluation.

“Soldiers and leaders will have the ability to go back and re-watch what they just executed like never before,” Doyle said. “This will help fine-tune points you can’t see on

most ranges and allow units to use the recording to prepare for future gunnery cycles and use it as a training tool.”

The DAGIR is the primary qualification range for AH-64 Apaches and an approved alternate range for tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles. The range can simulate multiple vehicles working together with air support, as well as unmanned aerial vehicles providing overwatch.

A Conex village on the range provides units the opportunity to train on dismounted operations and to incorporate Marines and Air Force joint terminal attack controllers on the ground into the training scenario.

The Idaho National Guard’s OCTC is located 19 miles south of Boise. Its 143,000 acres and 23 training ranges provide vast terrain to facilitate world-class training to prepare brigade combat teams and other units for combat through a tough and realistic training environment.



# From the ground to the sky: Idaho Army, Air conduct live-fire weapons training

Idaho citizen-Soldiers and Airmen trained together in May during a two-day joint fire exercise that combined live mortars from the ground with close air support from above, which included live bombs, missiles and combined effects munitions at the Orchard Combat Training Center.



The Idaho Army National Guard's 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team and the Idaho Air National Guard's 124th Fighter Wing joined forces from the ground to the sky in the large-scale joint training event.



"Joint live-fire integration is the key to success on the battlefield of tomorrow."  
-Brig. Gen. Donnellan



The 124th Air Support Operations Squadron's joint terminal attack controllers worked with the 2nd of the 116th Combined Arms Battalion's joint fire observers to direct targets with combined live-fire weapons engagement.

"Our battalion hasn't had this level of training or this level of interoperability working with the Air Force before," said Maj. John Gregory, 2-116 CAB operations officer. "We want to get to that level of proficiency working with each other, and provide ourselves the most lethal amount of force and mass effects in one space, at one time."

The wing's A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft dropped 500-pound bombs and other munitions in close air support for a com-

bined effect after the ground forces engaged with the 120-millimeter self-propelled mortar explosives. It was the first time the A-10s dropped live bombs at the OCTC as air power support for the Idaho Army National Guard.

"Joint live-fire integration is the key to success on the battlefield



of tomorrow," said Brig. Gen. Tim Donnellan, commander of the Idaho Air National Guard. "The Soldiers and Airmen of the Idaho National Guard will continue to train together in accordance with the National Defense Strategy. The live-fire integration and deconfliction training gives the ground commander the confidence they need to aggressively dominate the battlespace of the future."



# Idaho National Guard memorializes WWII Medal of Honor recipient, Idahoan



In July, the Idaho National Guard dedicated Gowen Field's newest barracks in honor of Medal of Honor recipient U.S. Army 1st Lt. Vernon Joseph Baker.

Baker was one of seven African Americans awarded the Medal of Honor for service during World War II. He received the award nearly 50 years later for his extraordinary heroism on April 5 and 6, 1945, while in Viareggio, Italy.

On April 5, 1945, Baker led 25 infantrymen through a maze of

German bunkers and machine gun nests to attack Castle Agh-nolfi, a German stronghold.

He lost 17 of his men during the battle. However, Baker destroyed various enemy installations, personnel and equipment during the attack. The next night, he volunteered to continue the advancement of a battalion through enemy minefields and heavy fire.

After Baker retired in 1986, he moved to Idaho to pursue his love of hunting. He later met his wife Heidi, whom he lived with in St. Maries until his death in 2010. He was interred later that same year at the Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

Construction of the barracks ended in April 2020 and took three years and approximately \$8 million to



Photo courtesy U.S. Army

complete. It provides temporary lodging for up to 156 personnel with 39 private rooms and a shared dayroom.

Baker Hall is the first building on Gowen Field to earn a gold certification in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design—the second highest rating of four certifications that verify a facility's green features. The building earned its LEED rating through various features including integrated ground loop heating and cooling systems, low flow fixtures, sustainable building practices and sustainable landscape features.

Outside the barracks is a stone that reads "Baker Hall," a statue of an elk symbolizing Baker's love for hunting in Idaho; and a plaque embedded into the bricks of the building entrance. Inside the building is Baker's Medal of Honor citation and his biography. Within each room, Baker's history is also displayed.



# President Biden visits Idaho



In September, the Idaho National Guard, in coordination with local law enforcement, Idaho State Police and the U.S. Secret Service, secured the Boise Airport, Gowen Field and the National Interagency Fire Center in preparation for the arrival of President Joe Biden.

After his arrival in Air Force One, the president and his motorcade traversed the airport runways to arrive at NIFC for a brief meeting with Gov. Brad Little, where they discussed best practices in forestry management and the resources



needed for future firefighting in the northwestern United States.

Idaho Air National Guard Commander Brig. Gen. Tim Donnellan and 124th Fighter Wing Commander Col. Shannon Smith were on hand to see President Biden and Air Force One off.

## IDNG welcomes distinguished visitors

Adjutants general and representatives from 10 western states met with Gen. Daniel Hokanson, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, on Gowen Field in July.



Senior military officials representing Alaska, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming attended. Senior enlisted leaders from seven states also met with Chief Master Sgt. Tony Whitehead, senior enlisted adviser to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

In March, Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr., the 22nd chief of staff of the Air Force, visited Gowen Field and

Mountain Home Air Force Base, where he met with leadership from the Idaho National Guard and the 366th Fighter Wing to discuss



emergent issues facing both military organizations.

In August, representatives from Idaho's Congressional Delegation visited Gowen Field for an update on the Idaho Military Division's capabilities and military activities



that require legislative support and appropriations through the National Defense Authorization Act.

In September, Maj. Gen. Troy Galloway, deputy commanding general, First Army, visited Idaho to see firsthand how the Idaho National Guard's Orchard Combat Training Center enhances U.S. Army readiness.



Additionally, Command Chief of the Air National Guard, Chief Master Sgt. Maurice L. Williams, visited the Idaho Air National Guard in September for a town hall meeting.

# Nez Perce Tribe, Idaho National Guard work, build together during COVID-19

Nez Perce and Idaho National Guard medical personnel worked together to help the tribe's health-care system recover after becoming backlogged during a community-wide COVID-19 shut down earlier this year.



The Nez Perce Tribe requested assistance through the Innovative Readiness Training program, which leverages National Guard training to benefit local communities. The Idaho National Guard tailored its training to address the tribe's challenges from an increase of COVID-19 cases.

"Idaho National Guard members

are driven by a sense of purpose," said Maj. Gen. Michael Garshak, the adjutant general of Idaho. "IRT collaboration like this not only enables us to sharpen our military skills, but it also provides great opportunities to make positive impacts in the communities of Idaho and to make a difference in the lives of our fellow citizens."

The Idaho National Guard medical and dental personnel performed three missions: a two-part diabetic IRT in June and October; a medical IRT in August; and a dental IRT in November, which resulted in dental screenings of nearly 250 Nez Perce school-aged children. Guardsmen also helped local clinics complete high school sports physicals and preschool Head Start program physical exams before the start of the sports season and the school year.

"Working with their local health care personnel helps build relationships with the tribes while training

our Idaho National Guard medical personnel," said Lt. Col. Tina Williams, an occupational health nurse. "Our mission is to help the Nez Perce community catch up on a backlog of patients while providing Guardsmen relevant training and a unique experience by seeing both adults and children at the Nez Perce clinics."

Idaho National Guard personnel also assisted tribe clinicians at two large COVID-19 vaccination clinics located at Lapwai and Kamiah.



"The National Guard has helped us with several projects throughout the pandemic," said Dr. Roxie Kim Hartwig, with the Nez Perce Tribe's Nimiipuu Health. "One of our mass vaccination events would have been impossible without the Idaho National Guard. The purpose of the diabetic IRT is to help us catch up with care that has been delayed due to the pandemic and provides training for the National Guard medical staff to gain some practical knowledge about our medical application."

## IDNG and tribe partner, build shooting range

In June, engineers from the Idaho Army National Guard partnered with Nez Perce Tribal Police to construct a shooting range in Lapwai. The range includes 25-meter and 300-meter lanes as well as a zero range for sighting in weapons. Engineers cleared, excavated and leveled the land to accommodate roads and parking areas, as well as created berms around the ranges.



# Environmental team partners with tribes to preserve environment, cultural history

Adjutant General of Idaho, Maj. Gen. Michael Garshak, and the Idaho National Guard's environmental

Boise Valley to plant native pollinator seedlings at the Chief Eagle Eye Reserve in Boise on Earth Day.

nership with the city and the tribes.”

The environmental program helps to reduce invasive and noxious weed species and reestablish native vegetation, such as sagebrush, bitterbrush, native grasses and forb species. Protecting native species is a critical component of the natural ecosystem and provides the habitats for local wildlife species holding significant cultural value to the indigenous people of the Boise Valley.



team joined the Boise City Parks and Recreation Department, Boise City Council and Tribes of the

“The reason the Idaho National Guard exists is to protect what is important to our nation and our state,” said Garshak. “The preservation of our environment and the cultural history of our native tribes are both efforts that are very important for us to support. I am extremely proud of the work from our environmental team in this part-

## 10th annual Return of the Boise Valley People

In August, the Idaho National Guard hosted the 10th annual Return of the Boise Valley People. The Boise Valley and surrounding areas are important to the land's original inhabitants and the Return of the Boise Valley People conference is an occasion for all Idahoans to recognize the rich culture and the historical value of the area's original peoples.



Hosting the conference is important to the Idaho Military Division because it provides an opportunity to further develop and maintain lasting relationships built on knowledge and trust.



# 116th CBCT holds change of command

The 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team held a change of command ceremony Aug. 8, signifying the transfer of authority between outgoing commander Col. Dennis Stitt Jr. and incoming commander Lt. Col. Eric Orcutt.

Stitt served as the unit's commander since August 2020. Under his command, 116th CBCT Soldiers completed multiple deployments in support of civil authorities throughout the state and nation; participated in a warfighter exercise; and increased readiness in preparation for future missions requiring significant planning efforts and mission analysis. Soldiers also deployed throughout the state in response to Idaho's battle against COVID-19.

"It has been my distinct honor to have had the opportunity to command the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team and to serve the Soldiers of the Snake River Bri-



gade throughout Idaho, Montana, Nevada and Oregon," said Stitt.

The 116th CBCT is the state's largest National Guard unit, with elements located across the state in nearly two dozen communities and additional subordinate units located in Montana, Nevada and Oregon.

Orcutt has served in the Idaho Army National Guard since 2000 and earned his commission as an of-

ficer in 2002. He previously served as commander of the 1st Battalion of the 148th Field Artillery Regiment and as the brigade's executive officer during its National Training Center rotation in 2019. He also deployed to Iraq with the brigade in 2004 and 2010.

"It has been my distinct honor to have had the opportunity to command the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team ..." - Col. Stitt



# Idaho Military History Museum remembers WWII, restores 1941 Willys Jeep



In June, the museum hosted an open house featuring displays of World War II equipment, military vehicles, weapons and Howitzer blank firing demonstrations in honor of the 76th anniversary of D-Day.

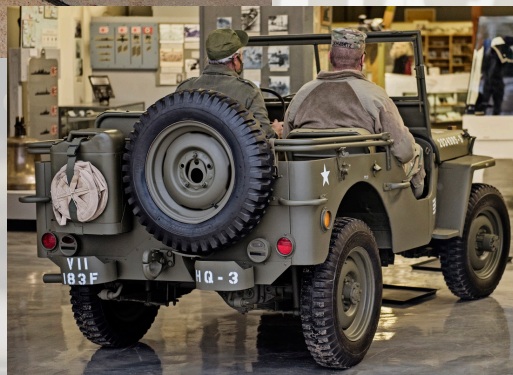
The Idaho Military History Museum is located at 4692 W. Harvard St. next to Gowen Field. Admission is free and open to the public, Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from noon to 4 p.m.



Bantam Car Company, the Ford Motor Company and Willys Overland-Motors. The Jeep represents Idaho's 183rd Field

One of the museum's newest exhibits is a 1941 Willys Jeep. Rob Lytle, a retired Idaho Army National Guard brigadier general and museum board member, spent several months restoring the Jeep to get it operational again.

Between 1941 and 1945, approximately 650,000 Jeeps were produced by the American



Artillery Battalion, which operated the 155-millimeter tractor-drawn Howitzer and is similar to those the battalion operated in the European theater of operations between June 1944 and May 1945.

# Idaho Soldiers, Airmen among best in nation

## Soldiers compete in Ranger competition, Bomsta best in National Guard

In April, Idaho Army National Guardsman Capt. John Bomsta and his teammate, Sgt. 1st Class Nathan Smith from the West Virginia Army National Guard, were the top National Guard team and 10th out of 51 U.S. Army teams at the 2021 Best Ranger Competition.

1st Lt. Christian Briggs, also in the Idaho Army National Guard, competed and placed 28th with his teammate, Spc. Jerry Marksbury from the Kentucky Army National Guard.

It was the first time any Soldier from the Idaho Army National Guard participated in the Best Ranger Competition since its start at Fort Benning, Georgia, in 1982. The competition between Rangers, the U.S. Army's elite fighting force, is one of the Army's hardest competitions to complete.

Both Bomsta and Briggs spent more than three months at Fort Benning training for the three-day competition, which determines the best two-Soldier team based on their performance through a series of physical and technical events.

Events included foot marches, an obstacle course, a land navigation course, a buddy run, weapons qualification, combat water survival, infantry tactics, a hand grenade assault course and treating an injured pilot while under fire before moving to an evacuation point.



Photos courtesy Airborne and Ranger Training Brigade

## IDNG marathon team earns top honors

The Idaho National Guard's marathon team finished first at the National Guard Marathon held during the Lincoln Marathon in May. More than 200 Guardsmen from 42 states and territories competed in the event.

Maj. Laura Newell, running her first marathon, was the National Guard's top female finisher by more than eight minutes. Staff Sgt. Ben Blessing and Spc. Jesse Dunn made the All-Guard Team. Staff Sgts. Trinity Sackos and Anthony Peace also competed in the race in Lincoln, Nebraska.



Photo courtesy Nebraska National Guard

## Idaho Soldier first in Army to graduate new Sapper program



Photo courtesy U.S. Army Sapper School

In April, Pfc. Mitch Haber of the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team became the U.S. Army's first Soldier to complete the pilot program that takes Soldiers straight from their initial entry training into its Sapper Leader Course.

In the process, Haber became the Idaho National Guard's first combat engineer to earn a Sapper tab while serving in the Idaho Army National Guard.

The demanding 28-day leadership development course teaches advanced engineering techniques, troop leading procedures, demolition and mountaineering operations and culminates with a field training exercise.

Haber was one of 17 Soldiers to complete the course out of 80 Soldiers who enrolled. He finished in the top 20 percent of his class and was the lowest ranking Soldier to graduate.

## 190th Fighter Squadron wins Hawgsmoke, top pilot team in Air Force

The 124th Fighter Wing's 190th Fighter Squadron was recognized in April as the top pilot team at Hawgsmoke 2021, a biennial aerial competition designed to test the bombing, missile and tactical gunnery skills of pilots and maintainers of the A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft.

190th Fighter Squadron pilots Lt. Col. Jason Cobb, Lt. Col. Jay Labrum, Maj. Chris Pezzini and Capt. Michael Shufeldt combined their skills to win all three team awards: overall champion, top bombing team and top tactical team.

More than 150 pilots, maintainers and weapon teams from 13 Air Force units across the globe representing all Air Force components competed in the event, hosted by the 23rd Fighter Group at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia.

"It feels wonderful to be able to lead a great team to victory," said Cobb. "To be able to win Hawgsmoke, amongst the fierce competition is pretty surreal and words cannot express what this means to us as a

team and for the squadron."

The overall win is the squadron's third since 2003 and as defending champion, the unit will host the next competition at Gowen Field.



# Idaho Military Division Economic Report

The Idaho Military Division, which includes the Idaho Army National Guard, the Idaho Air National Guard, the Idaho Office of Emergency Management and the Idaho Youth Challenge Academy, contributes more than \$658 million annually to Idaho's economy.

A recent study conducted by consulting economist Don C. Reading, Ph.D., found that the Idaho Military Division, comprising state, federal, and contracted employees, is the state's fourth largest employer, ultimately responsible for providing more than 8,120 jobs in Idaho.

The Idaho Military Division has a large economic footprint in Idaho, magnified by the fact that it is a state agency supported largely by federal dollars. The Idaho Military Division contributes far more to Idaho's tax revenues than it costs to run the division. The division's total economic impacts are estimated to generate nearly \$30 million in Idaho tax revenue, compared to the \$7 million the state appropriates for the Idaho Military Division each year. This is a robust return on the state's investment. To see the full study, visit [www.IMD.idaho.gov](http://www.IMD.idaho.gov).

| TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT IDAHO MILITARY DIVISION - FY 2020 (MILLIONS) |                             |                  |                    |                   |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------|
|                                                                    | DIRECT AND<br>INDIRECT JOBS | DIRECT<br>IMPACT | INDIRECT<br>IMPACT | INDUCED<br>IMPACT | TOTAL    |
| IDAHO ARMY<br>NATIONAL GUARD                                       | 5,339                       | 224.95           | 15.59              | 123.40            | \$363.94 |
| IDAHO AIR<br>NATIONAL GUARD                                        | 2,212                       | 128.95           | 2.17               | 74.47             | \$205.59 |
| IDAHO OFFICE OF<br>MILITARY MANAGEMENT                             | 257                         | 25.78            | 0.15               | 15.16             | \$41.09  |
| IDAHO MILITARY<br>DIVISION CONSTRUCTION                            | 312                         | 27.72            | 10.74              | 9.71              | \$48.17  |
| TOTAL                                                              | 8,120                       | \$407.40         | \$28.65            | \$222.74          | \$658.79 |

**Direct Impacts:** Changes in economic activity associated with the project or program being studied. In this case, they are the expenditures made to support the IMD.

**Indirect Impacts:** Changes in economic activity made by the businesses providing goods and services to, or using the goods and services of the project or program.

**Induced Impacts:** Changes in economic activity that flow from employees using their wages to purchase household goods and services within Idaho.

**Total impacts:** The total of direct, indirect and induced impacts on the defined economy.

The study was conducted between September 1, 2020, and July 31, 2021. Unless specified, all data is FY 2020, and all impact numbers are expressed in 2020 dollars.

This study uses an Input-Output model called IMPLAN (Impact Analysis for Planning) which contains a set of county-specific data derived from 505 separate sectors of the U.S. economy. It is maintained by the IMPLAN Group, LLC. The version of IMPLAN used in this study was calibrated specifically for Idaho using 2020 data.

# In memoriam

On Feb. 2, Idaho and our nation tragically lost three Soldiers when their UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crashed in the mountains near Boise during a routine training flight. Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jesse Anderson, 43; Chief Warrant Officer 3 George "Geoff" Laubhan, 39; and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Matthew Peltzer, 40, were fathers, husbands, brothers, sons, friends and much more. As experienced pilots and dedicated citizen-Soldiers, their loss will forever impact our organization.



Jesse Anderson, a Boise resident, was a senior instructor pilot and served in the Idaho Army National Guard since 2008. He first joined the active Army in 2000 and later deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq. While in the Idaho National Guard, he participated in humanitarian support in Guatemala in 2019; deployed to California to assist with wildland firefighting efforts in 2020; and conducted local search and rescue operations. He is survived by his wife and four children.



George "Geoff" Laubhan, a Boise resident and UH-60 Black Hawk instructor pilot, served in the Idaho Army National Guard since 2010. He also served as an AH-64 Apache pilot and a medevac pilot. He participated in a National Training Center rotation in California and several stateside training and support missions throughout his career. He also deployed in 2019 in support of Operation Beyond the Horizon in Guatemala. He is survived by his wife and two children.



Matthew Peltzer, a Nampa resident, was a UH-60 Black Hawk pilot and served in the Idaho Army National Guard since 2005. He also served as an AH-64 Apache pilot in command, an aviation mission survivability officer, an aviation safety officer and a medevac helicopter pilot. Additionally, he participated in Operation Beyond the Horizon in Guatemala and conducted training missions in California, Nevada and Oregon. He is survived by his wife and two children.



The Idaho Military Division's commitment to the community is codified in our adjutant general's three strategic imperatives: to maintain combat readiness to fight and win our nation's wars when called upon; to continue developing and strengthening our homeland security and emergency response readiness; and to continue building and fostering partnerships throughout Idaho, the nation and the world.

**Our Mission:** to maintain combat and domestic emergency response readiness in the Idaho National Guard; and guide the state, through the Office of Emergency Management, in effectively preparing for, responding to and recovering from all hazards. The division also provides a fully accredited residential high school with the Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy, in order to intervene in and reclaim the lives of at-risk Idaho youth.

**Our Vision:** to be Idaho's premier public service organization; attracting our leading citizens, promoting a safe and secure environment for our state and nation.

